# Weekly National Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1864.

#### Weekly National Intelligencer.

BY GALES & SEATON. JAMES C. WELLING, ASSOCIATE EDITOR. The subscription price of this paper for a year is Two DOLLARS, payable in advance.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1864.

#### THE NIAGARA MANIFESTO.

We invite the attention of our readers to an addressed to "whom it may concern."

We aroued that the terms of that manifesto ren-President makes a sine qua non of "the abandonslaves whom he "ordered and declared" to be free in the States and parts of States embraced in his proclamation of emancipation under date of January 1, 1863.

We are sure that we do not differ at all from the New York Times in our views as to the legal quality and effect of the emancipation edict. We remember that that journal expressed its concurrence with us at the time in the exceptions we took to the form and nature of that most unfortunate paper immediately after its promulgation. The only difference between us relates to the question that has been raised respecting the meaning of

Mr. Lincoln when he wrote the Niagara manifesto. We are surprised that there should be any dispute on this point, for we think, as we have already said, that the terms of the manifesto leave no room for doubt or cavil as to what the President meant to say. Let us again reproduce his lan-

" EXECUTIVE MANSION,

"Any proposition which embraces the restoration of peace, the integrity of the whole Union, and the abandon ment of slavery, and which comes by and with an authority that can control the armies now at war against the United States, will be received and considered by the Executive Government of the United States, and will be met by liberative and colleteral points, and the bearer or bearers thereof shall have safe conduct both

The meaning of these words lies on the surface, but an analysis of the several clauses of the manifesto makes that meaning not only clear but irresistible. For we not only have in the opening words of the rescript a statement of the terms on which any proposition will be received and considered, and not only is the equal indispensability of both the spe cified terms left to be inferred from the collocation in which they are placed, but the possibility of any abatement from either of them is excluded by the President's contemporaneous proffer of "liberal terms on OTHER SUBSTANTIAL AND COLLATE-BAL POINTS." The "other substantial and collateral points" embrace every thing as to which the President is willing to be "liberal," and he excludes from this classification "the integrity of the whole Union, and the abandenment of slavery"the latter as distinctly and as unequivocally as the former. If it is within the power of English speech more clearly to express the meaning which we apprehend in the manifesto, or to exclude the sense in which the Times interprets it, we must confess ourselves unable to appreciate the force of language. In order to ascertain whether the President makes a sine qua non of both the terms which he specifies, we have not only the presumption which results from their equal expression, but, in addition to this, we have their joint excusion from the category of subjects open to discussion, an exclusion made positive and express by the statement that "liberal terms" will be offered on "other substantial and collateral points." Whatever, therefore, may be the sense in which the President or his friends now please to construe and interpret these words, there can, we submit, be no cavil as to the sense they bear on their face, or which they yield to a critical scrutiny.

The Times greatly mistakes the spirit we have brought to this inquiry when it supposes that we seek to haraes the President by "hedging him about with fresh embarrassments and complications' resulting from the pledges and commitments found in his proclamations on the subject of slavery. Would that those "embarrassments and complications" had no other existence than in our " parade" of the President's declarations! But. alas! they necessarily result from the nature of the impossible engagements he has personally assumed in the face of the country and of the civilized world. We do not create them when we recite them, and the Times does not destroy them when it argues against their existence. It is the President who breathed into them the breath of life, and, as it was his word that made them, so, while he remains in his present position, it is only his word that can anmake them, and his word stands pledged against any use of his power in this latter

While we see much to admire in the candor and dignity with which the Times has conducted this by the Treasury Department.

discussion, as indeed becomes the gravity of the theme, we cannot perceive the justice of its implied animadversion on our argument in this matter when it says that our earnestness "savois much more of the warmth of a partisan who apprehends evil to his party cause or candidate from the patriotic conduct of its opponent than of one zealous for the safety of the nation and eager to have it secured by a wise and patriotic policy on the part of its rulers." Is the editor of the Times quite sure that no zeal for "his party cause or candidate" has to any one unless paid for in advance, nor anylonger than | blinded his own mind to a perception of the real and the intended meaning of the President's language in the Niagara manifesto? Is the "carnestness" which he betrays on this subject inspired by no sense of the necessity under which he conceives himself laid to extricate the President, if possible, from a political dilemma on one or the other of whose horns he article of the New York Times, which will be is in imminent danger of being gored to death? found in another part of to-day's Intelligencer, And is the Times quite sure that if it could sucresponsive to some views we presented on Satur- ceed in lifting him from one horn it would not in day last for the purpose of showing that we had the act of doing so impale him on the other? It not, as we conceive, misapprehended either the is no spirit of partisanship which leads us to set in terms or the purport of Mr. Lincoln's manifesto a clear light the infelicity of the President's position, nor do we seek to estop him from "patriotic action" in the path marked out for him by the dered it as fair-nay, as necessary-to infer that the Times. Let the President only repudiate for himself as clearly as the Times repudiates for him "the ment of slavery" as of the "integrity of the whole pledges and commitments" which we suppose our-Union," and that no doubt can be thrown on his selves to discern as well in his proclamations as in adherence to one of these stipulations which does his recent manifesto, which is the mere culminanot equally apply to the other, while we showed that it tion of those proclamations, and we shall not be was only by interpreting the declaration in this sense slow to mark our appreciation of his "patriotic that it could be brought into harmony with the ante- action," even though such a recautation, if comcedent pledges by which the President had bound ing in time to save his candidacy from the defeat himself to "recognise and maintain," with all the with which it is menaced, might come too late to power of the army and navy, the freedom of the save the country from the ruin rendered well nigh inevitable by long persistence in a fatal policy.

# IMPORTANT NEWS FROM MOBILE.

FORT MORGAN CAPTURED.

Gen. Grant has forwarded to the War Department the following rebel account of the surrender of Fort Morgan, in Mobile bay. It is copied from the Richmond Enquirer of the 30th instant :

MOBILE, AUGUST 26, 1864. The flag of truce boat returned last evening. The Yaukees say that Fort Morgan capitulated last Tuesday at two o'clock. On Monday afternoon they concentrated their fire on the fort, which replied spiritedly. On Tuesday the bombardment was renewed. In the meanwhile the enemy succeeded in getting their howitzers into position and a line of skirmishers on the glacis of the fort, and opened a heavy fire on our guns and gunners, and with the assistance of the mortar fleet they succeeded in damaging several gun carriages. The fort did not fire on Tuesday.

Gen. Page destroyed every thing in the fort and spiked his guns. He and a garrison numbering five hundred and eighty-one men were sent to New Orleans.

Seventeen men were killed. The number of wounded unknown. None of the non-combatants were allowed to visit the city.

The enemy have thrown a force of 4,000 men on the mainland at Grant's Pass.

THE CAPTURE OF FORT MORGAN

The steamer Yazoo, arrived at New York from New Orleans, brings accounts thence to the 24th

The most interesting item of her news is an official announcement by Gen. Canby of the surrender of Fort Morgan. The story is briefly told as

NEW ORLEANS, AUGUST 24, 1864. Fort Morgan surrendered unconditionally yesterday, at wo o'clock P. M . 231 instant.

By the surrender of Fort Morgan we have about six hundred prisoners and sixty pieces of artillery, and a large

quantity of material. In the twelve hours preceding the surrender about three thousand shells were thrown into the fort The citadel and barracks are entirely destroyed, and the works generally much injured. Many of the guns were spiked, the carringes burned, and much of the ammunition destroyed by the rebels. The losses in the army were one man killed

#### and seven wounded! ED R S. CANBY, Mejor Gen. ARE THEY EXEMPT FROM DRAFT?

The Republican of last evening says: "Provost Marshal Gen. FRY has decided that men who paid commutation under the draft of June, 1864, are liable to the draft which takes place in September next to fill liabilities of the subdistricts under the call made up to the present time, and the district provost marshals are ordered to place in the wheel for the draft the names of such parties."

We have seen this statement in several other newspapers, out have not yet ascertained that any official order on the subject has been promulgated. It will be remembered that it has been heretofore held that drafted persons who paid the commutation of three hundred dollars, as provided for under the late law, were exempt from draft for three years, that being the term for which the draft was made, and for which they paid for a substitute in the army. The President himself so decided last November. We observe that resolution has been introduced into the Pennsylvania Legislature instructing Gov. Curtin "to make immediate inquiry as to the authenticity of the alleged order or decision, and, in case it be found to be really made and ordered, that in such case the Governor be and he is hereby instructed to urge upon the proper authorities at Washington the manifest injustice of such order or decision, and to use his official influence, in the name of the people of Pennsylvania, to have the same rescinded and

### MR. BEMIS'S PAMPHLET.

We have received and read with much interest a pamphlet from the pen of GEORGE BEMIS, Esq , of Boston, on Precedents of American Neutrality," being a reply to the speech of Sir ROUNDELL PALMER, the Attorney General of England, delivered in the British House of Commone on the 13 h of May in this year. Mr. Bemis hea drawn from the records of our Parliamentary and Dip'o matic bistory an array of "precedents" which places in an honorable light the good faith which our Government has, we believe uniformly brought under all Administrations to the discharge of its neutral obligations.

## FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

Secretary Fessenden has issued orders that parties holding seven-thirty notes, due October 1st, may present them in any amount at once, and have them funded, with interest to maturity in six per cent. bonds, due after 1881 There is about sixty-four million dollars of this loan yet outstanding. The intimation that some arrangement is making for funding certificates of indebtedness falling due before March next in the ten-forty loan at par is denied

A NEW REPUBLICAN CONVENTION PROPOSED.

It will not be forgotten by any of our readers that that large portion of the Republican party which protested against the early date of the Convention opened at Baltimore on the 7th of June last did not neglect at the time to warn the friends of President Lincoln that no decree of that Convention would be held of binding and conclusive force unless its propriety and expediency should be confirmed by the subsequent course of events. To this effect the New York Independent wrote as follows in forecasting the renomination of Mr | on the savage under the control of the Indian Bu-Lincoln by this body :

Lincoln by this body:

"As to its candidate, we have nothing to say—not a word for or against Mr Lincoln—not a word for or against any other man whose name may there arise; for the good and sufficient reason that a nomination in June, no matter who may be the nominee will not be the final and unalterable nomination. In fact, it is by no means impossible, we do not say probable, that the action of the Baltimore Convention will be entirely set aside, or will depend for its validity upon its ratification by a future Convention. We, therefore, altogether dismiss the question of the candidacy—useless to be now considered, as it cannot be now se tled."

We need not say that the "subsequent course of events" has fully justified the prudence of those who inculcated the duty of caution in attaching confidence to any whose official merits and capabilities were undergoing tests which might alter the estimates alike of political friends and adversaries. And the call for a new Convention, which was early portended by the Independent, now finds open advocates in leading Republican journals. We cite two exponents of this sentiment from the

From the Cincinnati Gazette of August 27. Compared with the great interests at stake, men are of no consequence, except so far as regards their qualifi-cations for positions to be filled, and the man who possess ses these qualifications, and at the same time can best unite the people, is the person called for in this crisis. On the part of Union people there are no attachments to men equal to their attachments to the cause, and for this the masses are prepared to labor, regardless of personal con siderations. That man and that policy which shall promise most for the true interests of the country are to be sought for and sustained, regardless of minor considerations. These we believe to be the sentiments of the people, and we are fully satisfied that the masses will enthusiastically we are fully satisfied that the masses will enthu we are fully satisfied that the masses will enthusiastically approve whatever may honorably and in good faith be done, looking to the defeat of the peace party in the approaching election, even to the holding of a new Convention and the nomination of a new candidate.

From the Cincinnati Times of August 27. Even the strongest friends of Mr. Lincoln must acknow-ledge that his popularity, based upon his fitne-s for the Presidential chair, has been on the wane since the hour when the Baltimore Convention closed its labors. Growing opposition has brought another candidate into the field, whom of cour e there will be awarded a certain vote he coming election. The object of all the loyal people of the country now should be to consolidate all their forces to sustain the Government and bring it safely through the sustain the government and bring it safely through the sustain the Government and bring it safely through the darkest hour which has assailed it rince it became free and independent. Under the guidance of Mr Lincoln as Chief Executive we are satisfied that this will be a matter of the greatest difficulty. We have clung to him during a four years' Administration because we have recognised him as the exponent of principle, but we feel that now to some extent, he has lost the confidence of the people, though the principle which nominated and re no minsted him will live forever under our Constitution. We learn, then, with great gratification, and endorse the movement, that measures are being taken which perhaps will result in the withdrawal of all candidates now before the people, and the selection of a man of administrative ability sufficient for the present emergency, and who can guid and whose antecedents will restore that confidence in the Administration which, we regret to say, is fast waning Union. We do not say why, nor do we lay blame to eithe candidate. All we know is that the public sentiment i too fearfully divided to incur any rick in the coming ele tion, when the entire welfare and the holiest interests of the country are at stake. The cause is too great to bazard on mere preferences for men. Gen Frement has, we learn, signified his willingness to retire in view of nomication in favor of such a candidate as can re-unite the rote of the country; and we doubt not that Lincoln's pa triotism would induce him to a opt the same course Mo ments are now in contemplation among some of the leading men of uncoubted integrity in the East and West, and could be made with promise of undoubted success. favor the measure in its present position, and will, when matured, give it our hearty support.

#### ADMIRAL FARRAGUT.

The public will wait with curiosity and interes for the arrival of the official despatches which shall give a more particular and authoritative account of the operations which have resulted in the forced surrender of Fort Morgan within the last few days. It would seem that the presence of Admiral FAR-RAGUT is the presage of victory, and if there be truth in the old adage that "fortune favors the brave," who better than he would have a right to count on the smiles of that capricious deity? But this adage is true only as bravery allied to skill binds the favor of fortune in the chain that connects the effect with its cause. Of Admiral Farragut it may be said as of the tenacious Roman. quod vult, valde vult; and in this trait of his character may be found in no small measure the secret of his brilliant successes. He has always risen to the height of the task he was called to perform, and, in deserving well of the service he adorns, he has deserved well of the country which he so efficiently and faithfully serves. It is no derogation from his unsurpassed achievements that other naval officers, in other fields of duty, have equally filled up the measure of their opportunities, and thus, if not with equal distinction, yet with equal justice, have established the measure of their claim on the grateful recollection of their fel-

The people of Pennsylvania and Maryland have been made the objects of much unseemly criticism and derision in Massachusetts, and in some other quarters, because their " local militia" did not promptly rise and expel the invading force of Gen. Early in his recent irruptions How bravely and efficiently the militia of Massachusetts would have been likely to act under similar circumstances may be read in the following preface of a proclamation by

Gov. Andrew, under date of August 20: "The volunteer militia of Massachusetts, as it existed previous to the beginning of the present war, having been almost entirely broken up, by the enlistment of its members, almost entirely broken up, by the entistment of its memoers, in voidually and as companies and regiments in the service of the United States, in response to the different calls of the President for troops for three months, nine months, one hundred days, one year, and three years; and the laws establishing this volunteer militia being no longer in content of organization prescribed by the establishing this volunteer mititia being no longer in con-formity with the system of organization prescribed by the lass of the United States, and it having been found impos-sible to recruit this militia under the laws as they stood— and the saisty and honor of the Commonwealth impera-tively demanding a well organized militis for the common defence, the L-gislature of Massachusetts at its last ses-sion passed as act entitled an act co-seroing the militis, which was approved on the 14th day of may last, and which is the 238th Chapter of the Acts of 1864, establish ing a new system in strict conformity to the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth, and by which all previous acts concerning the militia were repealed."

OUR INDIAN SYSTEM.

We have repeatedly called the attention of our readers to the organic defects and practical abuses of the present Indian policy of the Government. We are glad to know that this subject was, some months ago, brought to the fresh notice of one branch of the Administration in an elaborate report, under date of February 6th, in the present year, made to the Secretary of War by Major Gen. Pope, commanding the Department of the Northwest. The deteriorating influences brought to bear reau in this city are so notorious and so great that Gen. Pope does not hesitate to ask that the military be left to deal with these Indians without the interposition of Indian agents. He makes this re-

present Indian policy. The results of our Indian policy are thus recapitulated by the General:

quest because he believes that any permanent peace

with the Indians depends upon it, and because he

is convinced that the condition of the Indian in his

wild state is far better than his status under the

"There do not and have not lacked occasions when the Indian, goaded by swindling and wrong and maddened by drink, has broken out a vainst the whites indiscriminately, and committed those horrible outrages at which the country has stood sghast. I think it will be found almost without exception that Indian wars of late years have broken out with the second class of annuity Indians, and can be directly traced to the conduct of the white men who have awindled them out of their money and their goods.

"By our system of reservations also we have gradually transplanted the Indian tribes to the west, and have located them from north to south along our western frontier building up by these means a constantly increasing barrier to travel and emigration westward. Through this bar rier all emigrants to the new Territories and to the Pacific States are compelled to force their way, and difficulties leading to robb-ry and violence, and oftentimes to exten sive massacres, both of whites and Indians, are of not un-

requent occurrence. of the whites be worsted in these difficulties, troops are immediately demanded, and thus begins an Indian was

which the greed of contractors and speculators interested in its continuance, playing upon the natural apprehensions of the people, and influencing the press, makes it very difficult to conduct successfully or bring to an end. "Both in an economic and humane view, the present Indian policy has been a woeful failure. Instead of preventing, it has been, beyond doubt, the source of all the Indian areas which have accurate in least successful to the source. wars which have occurred in late years. So long as our present policy prevails the money and the goods furnished to the Indians will be a constant and sufficient temptation to unscrupul us white men, and so long must we expec to be denied that the expense of this system to the United States has greatly exceeded what would have been necessary to keep troops enough on the frontier to ensure peac

"It is equally certain that the condition of the Indian so far from being improved, has been greatly injured. He has lost all the high qualities of his native state, and has simply been reduced to the condition of an icle, drunken gambing vagabond. The mortality among these amounty indians living on reservations has far exceeded that among the wild tribes, and bids fair to extinguish the whole race in a wooderfully short period. I think it will not be disputed, by those familiar with the subject, that our Indian policy the totally failed of any humanizing effect over the Indian; has worked him a cruel wrong, and has entailed a very great and useless expense upon the Government. I have passed ten years of my life in service on the frontier, and the facts berein stated are the result of observa-tion and experience, and are familiar to every officer of the army who has served in the West.

"However wise may have been the theory of our In-dian system, it can readily be substantiated that, in its practical operation, it has worked n justice and wrong to the Indian; has made his present state worse, morally an entailed heavy and u-cless expense upon the Government Some change, therefore, seems to be demanded by well established facts resulting from an exper

These views of the General are fully confirmed by the representations of other witnesses who have knowledge of the facts in the case. The philanthropic Bishop WHIPPLE, of Minnesota, who has done so much to arouse the conscience of the country to a sense of the fearful wrongs done to the Indian by Government agents under the prevailing policy, recites the following story, which shows how those Indians who have already taken to agriculture, and to a steady life, are paralyzed the moment a Government agent approaches them with a treaty :

" During the last summer I visited the Indiane at Ped Lake. After the services the head chief came to me and You have spoken good words to us; you are the servent of the Great Spirit. I want you to go and see my p ople's gardens, and then I will ask your advice.' I took he chier's pony and rode four miles through cornfields every acre of which was cul ivated with the boe. I at new coin and new putatoes from these gardens the first week in August. My interpreter counted twenty-nine sacks of last year's corn in one lodge, and we bardly found a lodge without plenty of old corn. On my return the chief said: You have seen my people; they have plenty they are not hungry; our Great Father is about to send commissioner here to buy our land. I have no iced that whenever Indians sell their lands to the Great Father they always perish. I should be sorry to have my people become like the Indians at Crow Wing. Will the Bishop tell me all he has in his head?

Another chief said to the Bishop, " Woe to us, for the day we hear the big-knives' words we go to our graves."

And the prevalent system is as unjust to the country as it is unjust to the Indians. On this point the New York Evening Post of Friday last forcibly remarks as follows:

"The people of the United States furnish the Indians wi hthe weapons wherewith they murder and maim such of them as they can get at. When the warriors of a tribe determine on war, and cover their faces with the hideons war-paint, the pigments they use have come to them di-rectly from the Indian Bureau, as part of the annual donation of 'goods.' When they are themselves with maskets they are the gifts of the United States Government, which furnishes also the powder and lead to load them with. The whiskey with which the warriors make themselves furious is purchased with money given by the United States, from traders authorized by the Government to deal with the Indians. When the tomahawk is unburied, it is a temahawk sent to their tribe by their 'Great Father;' and t hose in Minnesota who had relatives not merely killed, but scalped, during the last Indian war, it must have been a peculiar satisfaction to know that the scalping knives sed by the savages were also furnished by the Indian Bureau. In the advertisement for Indian supplies last fall was one requiring bids for 'one hundred dozen scalping knives.' Reading this advertisement, we wonder whether there is any special and favored model of this instrument which the superintendent requires the manufacturer to follow. If so, it would be interesting to know who fur nished this model; and whether recent experience of its blade? Has Rolling Thunder, or Peep of Day, or Pop-em-over-Quick, or Hole in the Water, or any other shief, patent right in an improved double-back-action spring calping knife! Does the chief of the Indian Bureau hang a model of the last improved knife over his desk for the instruction of contractors? It is not a mirth-invoking subject; any one who examines it somewhat closely will find it not only sad, but extremely unclean."

We learn from Doboy Sound, Georgia, that an expedition from the sloop of war Seratoga recently went forty miles inward, where they captured forty osvalrymen, together with their borses, arms, and camp equipments, and burnt a splendid bridge on the Gulf railroad. The expedition returned, after an absence of four days, with all their prisoners, and without losing a man.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC!

FOURTH BATTLE FOR THE WELDON ROAD.

THE ENEMY AGAIN REPULSED.

We learn by official reports received on Saturday at the War Department that on Thursday last, the 25th instant, General Hancock, who was south of Reams's Station, on the Weldon railroad, was attacked several times during the day, and that the enemy was repu'sed at every assault At half-past five o'clock P. M. a combined attack was made on his centre and left, which, after a desperate and sanguinary battle, resulted in the enemy withdrawing from the field, leaving behind them their dead and wou ded. The details are given in the subjoined brief official reports of Gen Grant, Gen. Meade, and Gen. Hancock.

Reams's Station, where the battle took place, is ten miles south of Petersburg and thirty-two miles south of Richmond The road was first taken possession by our forces on the 18th instant, after a slight conflict. The enemy attempted to recover it on the 19th, and again on the 21st and 25th. In every case he has been repulsed, and in the two last assaults suffered very heavy losses.

SECOND ARMY CORPS. AUGUST 26. For General Humphreys.

The attack about 5 30 was probably intended to b simultaneous, by Wilcox on my centre and Heth on my

The enemy formed in the woods, placed their artillery in position, opened a heavy cannonade, lasting about fifteen minutes, and then assaulted Miles's force. He resisted tenaciously, but the enemy broke his line. Some of Gibbon's troops were burried over to repair the damage, and the enemy only gained a slight foothold.

They soon attempted my extreme left, and drove Gibbon's division from the line. His men had been much wearied in rush ng over to Gen. Miles and back during the repeated assaults. Gen. Gibbon succeeded in forming s strong line, and the enemy, who were pressing on with great enthusiasm, were severely checked by the dismounted

cavalry under Gen. Gregg, which he handled handsomely. Miles regained most of his entrenchments, distinguishing himself. All he had to work with were such small parties as could be rallied and formed by his staff officers.

The fighting was continuous until dark, the enemy being held in check by artillery, dismounted cavalry, and skirmishers. At dark we withdrew for the reasons stated. The chief of artillery reports that he lost about two hundred and fifty horses.

The enemy made no advance up to a late hour last night. holding, as far as could be seen, some of our captured guns with their skirmish line. They must have suffered

My own loss, including cavalry, will perhaps not exceed welve or fifteen bundred, though this is a surmise, as the command is not yet organized. Capt. Brownson, of my staff, was mortally wounded, dying during the night. Col. Walker, A. A. G., is missing.

This is acknowledged to have been one of the most deermined and desperate fights of the war, resembling Spottsylvania in its character, though the number engaged gives less importance to it. A few more good troops would have given a victory of considerable impor-

I forward this afternoon prisoners from the field from Wilcox's and Heth's divisions.

Mejor Angel, of my staff, saw and conversed with two prisoners of Mahone's division last night. I do not find them this morning. They said Mahone's division, with the exception of one brigade, was there

W. S. HANCOCK, Major General. U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General.

SECOND CORPS, AUGUST 26-12 30 P. M. A safeguard that was left on the battle-field remained after daylight this morning. At that time the enemy had all disappeared, leaving their dead on the field unburied. This shows how severely they were punished, and, doubtless hearing of the arrival of re-inforcements, they feared the results to-day if they remained.

G. G. MEADE, Major General.

SECOND ARMY CORPS, AUGUST 26-1 P. M. To Lieut Gen. Grant : Since sending my last despatch have conversed with the safeguard referred to. He did not leave the field until after squrise. At that time nearly all the enemy had left, moving towards Petersburg. He says they abandoned not only their dead, but wounded also He conversed with an officer who said their losses were greater than ever before during the war. The safeguard eavs he was over the field, and it was covered with the enemy's dead and wounded. He has seen a great many battle-fields, but never such a sight. Nearly all of the enemy's and all our wounded were brought off, but our dead were unburied. I have instructed Gen. Gregg to make an effort to send a party to the field and bury our dead.

G. G. MEADE, Major General.

Our forces still hold the Weldon road. In a despatch dated 3 P. M. on Friday Gen. Grant says that the encmy's loss of this road seems to be a blow he cannot stand. I think I do not overstate the loss of the enemy in the last two weeks at ten thousand killed and wounded. We have lost heavily, but ours have been mostly in captured, when the army gained temporary advantages. The number of rebel prisoners taken on our side has not yet been reported.

## THE BATTLE OF THURSDAY.

Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer. HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF POTOMAC, AUGUST 26.

The action at Reams's Station, in which, on our side, the first and second divisions, Second Corps, were engaged yesterday, is an event of which I hardly know how to speak. Many look upon it as a disaster, and there are some reasons for regarding it in that light, if we were to consider it without regard to the other side of the picture, the punishment inflicted on the enemy. But when we re collect that in three successive charges the enemy was repulsed with great slaughter, and that their losses in killed and wounded greatly outnumbered ours, it is evident that our occasion for regret is on account of the adverse moral effect of a reverse more than the losses actually entailed thereby. Even the guns they captured were dearly paid for in killed and wounded, and we can far better afford to lose guns than they can afford to lose men. The Second Corps had but just returned from the ex-

treme right on the James river when, on Monday morning, the first and second divisions of it were started off on the first and according to the extreme left, on the Weldon radroad. From that time up to yesterday they had been hard at work tearing up the railroad, barning the tree, twisting the rails, levelling embankments, de stroying bridges and culverts, and as thoroughly as possible demolished every thing that could be of any service to the enemy in facilitating the repair of the road, in case it should sgain fall late their hands.

On Thursday morning Gon. Gibbon's division was to have moved southward from Reams's station to continue the destruction of the road still further towards Story Crees, but Col. Spear's brigade of Kautz's cavalry, which was picketing in that direction, being attacked by the ene my, and this circumstance intimating the probability that our operations on the railroad might meet with interruption; the order to move out was countermanded.
Eubsequently the opinion that the only force the enem

had there was cavalry appears to have been formed, and Gen. Gibbon was again ordered to move down the road, which he commenced to do at about half part nine A M Starting along a road running to the left or east of he railroad, they turned to the right and crossed the latter about half a mile telow Keams's, and had not proceeded half a mile further before the cavalry was checked by

meeting a line or robel skirmishers. Advancing a skirmish line parallel with that on the right of the railroad, its left flank resting near the same, Col-Smyth pushed back the enemy's skirmishers until, on arriving in sight of a narrow swampy range extending from

the railroad obliquely to the right, and with its scute an-

the railroad obliquely to the right, and with its acute angle on the side next to us, he cound their troops in line of bat le beyond it and protected by small breastworks. The en my immediately charged upon our skirmishers, and drove them back to our main body.

Col. Smyth now reported to Geo. G boon the fact that the enemy had a considerable force of infantry present, and awaited further instructions. He was ordered to push forward again and are rtain what force there was opposed to us; and accordingly he advanced and again drove back the enemy to the ravine, and at that point was again brought to a stand and compelled to revire.

The pickets of Miles's division were driven in, and a charge was then made on the entrenchments, which, how

ever, was quickly repulsed.

As soon as it became evident by the attack on Gen. Miles's position that the enemy were in considerable force, Gen. Gibbon was ordered to tall back from his advanced position on the left, and, connecting his left with the right of the first division, to form a line for the protection of the left flank and the rear. The junction of his right with Miles's left was near the point where our breastworks crossed the railroad, and thence his line extended in such a curve as to bring his left nearly opposite Miles's right, the line of the latter fronting towards the west, while toat of Gibbon faced on the east and coutheast

The enemy having been repulsed, our skirmishers followed them as they fell back, advancing nearly to the position they had formerly held, and capturing a number of prisoners. Shortly after the enemy again advanced and were again driven back with havy loss, and their third assault, mad about 4 P. M. was attended in his assault, mad about 4 P. M., was attended with a like

In the next three charges the enemy used no artillery, but about 5 P. M. they opened a heavy, concentrated fit of from a number of batteries, pouring a storm of shot a dother missiles over the entire amphitmentre included with-

After about twenty minutes of this artillery fire, the enemy again made their appearance in front of Gen.
Miles's division, their assault being directed mainly sgain t his centre Alorg nearly the entire line, and especially in front of the fifth brigade, the woods are very close to our entrenchments, which circumstance was favorable to to the enemy, in that it enabled them to form compara-

Emerging from the woods they advanced in two lines of battle, with a force thought to have comprised Wilcox's chire division, of Hill's corps, and two brigades of Heth's. Our artillery and musketry greeted them, as before, with a rapid fire, but without checking their progress. On they came with bayonets fixed and without firing a shot.

They approached our lines, gained the outside of our en-trenchments, and at some points a hand to hand conflict ensued over the top of the breastworks, our men beating back the rebels with their bayonets as they attempted to climb over But soon it was found that our line was broken near the centre, and the gap once make rapidly grew wider, until nearly the entire line was swept back, leaving our breastworks and artillery in the hands of the eneny, from the left of the first division to a point con-

iderably to the right of the centre

The batteries left behind were batteries B, First Rhode Island, Lieut. Perrine; Cspt. Sleeper's battery, Tonth Massachusetts, and McKnight's battery, the Twelith New York Independent. Their horses had all been shot early in the action, and the suddenness with which our men fell back rendered it impossible to get off the guns. Capt. Sleeper, of the Teuth Massachusetts, had been wounded during the afternoon, and was not in command when his battery was lost. It is said that the Fourth New York heavy artiflery, or a considerable portion of them, stood their ground on the left when our line gave way, and, rushing to the guns of the battery nearest to them. worked it till the enemy came on an surrounded them, capturing a considerable portion of them along with the

oattery.

Gen. Miles and other officers of his division, with great coomess and intropidity, set to work to rally the men, who were pouring down from the left and hurrying to the rear, and in a short time succeeded in forming a line, with the right resting against our breastworks, near the right of our former line, at the point up to which that line had been held. At the same time Gen Hancock ordered the second division to be faced about, and, cheering and urging the men forward, led them in person in a charge at doublequick across the space between their line and that of Gen Miles, which at the widest part was probably three-four the of a mile in breadth.

The charge, which was made under a heavy fire both of musketry and art.liery, was gallantry executed, and in conjunction with the line railed by Gen. Miles, in Landy checked the enemy and regained our entrenchments for some distance further towards the left.

After the enemy had been checked in the centre and slong that portion of the line which they had chiefly directed their attack, the greater part of the second division had returned to their own entreachments, and the combat seemed to have nearly died out, when suddenly the enemy, vorking their way round towards our left, struck the right flank and rear of Col Murphy's brigade, which was driven towards the left. Perhaps it will be better understood if I compare our lines to a horse-shoe, and say they were driven towards the left heel. There was again considerativen towards the left heel. ble confusion for a time, but our men again railied and the enemy was soon checked.

By this time it was dark, and the fighting ended. Mc-Kongat's battery was but a short distance to the left of the portion of the line recaptured, and after dark Col. myth seet Cot Moore, of the Fourteen h Penusylvania, ring off the guns. He succeeded in bringing off three, and the other was subseque thy recovered.

About eight P. M. we commenced entring, which we ac-

complished with ut molestation Nothing was lost to aban foring our position, not a shot being fired by the enemy, We sacrifice nothing in abendoning the position at Reams's nation, except perhaps the destruction or a few miles more f the reliroad, and when our detached situation and the orce the enemy brought sgainst us are considered, it is by no means surprising that we should have been for a t me overpowered. The number of men opposed to us is estimated from fifteen to seventeen thou prising Heth's and Wilcox's divis one of Hill's corps, and Field's division, with two other brigades of Auderson's, formerly Longstreet's corps.

There can be little doubt that in the engagement they

ou numbered us two to one, for the men of the two div sio. we had there were so expansived by figuing, hard marching, and their laborious work on the cairoad that their effective strength had been materially reduced. The enemy will very naturally pique the carelves on the capture of our breastworks and artitlery, but if they be allowed to claim a victory it is of a kind has they may pray to be excused from experiencing too frequently.

Another correspondent gives a somewhat similar account of operations. He says:

Several pieces are reported to be recaptured by our m-n, the enemy not being able to get off with them.

Late in the day reinforcements were sent to Hancock Warren's position is considered impregnable, and no

ttack was made on any portion of his line during the en-

#### HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC. Monday, August 29-Evining.

The reports published in some of the news papers that the losses in the Fifth Corps in the battle of the 18th, 19th, and 21st of the present month react five thousand greatly exaggerate the facts. It is now definitely ascertained that they do not exceed thirty-eight hundred, and as stragglers and others still continue to come in, and the sick are not all accounted for, it is believed that the aggregate loss in all these engagements will not exceed thirt', five hundred. The loss of the Second Corps in Thursday's fight will not exceed an aggregate of fifteen bundred, according to the official statement, and it is noped and belived that when all who are now within our lines report twelve hundred will embrace the entire loss. The rebels are said to be using the Weldon railroad be-

ow Reams's Station, and running their supplies thence to Petersburg around our left by wagon. As this requires a large force for train guards, and to defend the road against neursions of our cavalry, it cannot be either a very prefitable or pleasant means of communication, without taking into consideration the loss of time involved. Arrangements have been made, it is understood, for

curying the rebel dead left on the field of last Thursday's battle. The fact that the enemy did not perform the funeral rites for their own dead, nor carry off all their wounded on that occasion, is pretty palpable evidence that, although they drove back our Second Corps, they did not achieve any very complete or cred table victory.

To-day nothing of interest has occurred. The usual cannonading and picket firing was rather more brisk, and continues this evening, but it is without any results of

The Collector of the port of New York gives as the amount of his income last year \$60,000.